AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-77 (Cancelled)

78. (New) A Fibre Channel interface unit for interfacing an output device with a plurality of nodes in a Fibre Channel network, the interface unit comprising:

a plurality of input interfaces coupled to the nodes to passively listen for frames communicated between the nodes, the frames formatted in accordance with a Fibre Channel protocol, the input interfaces further configured to examine source and destination addresses of the frames in order to extract data wanted by the output device and eliminate data not wanted by the output device, each interface providing filtered data that is wanted by the output device; and

an output interface configured to place the filtered data from the input interfaces into a single, lower speed output stream that is formatted for the output device in accordance with a protocol other than Fibre Channel.

79. (New) The interface unit of Claim 78, wherein at least one of the input interfaces and the output interface is further configured to time tag frames of the filtered data.

80. (New) The interface unit of Claim 78, wherein the single stream is formatted for an avionics system.

81. (New) The interface unit of Claim 78, wherein the single stream is formatted for a radar system.

82. (New) The interface unit of Claim 78, wherein the single stream is formatted for a flight recorder.

83. (New) The interface unit of Claim 78, wherein the single stream is formatted for a telemetry device.

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84. (New) The interface unit of Claim 78, further comprising a processor coupled to the input interfaces and the output interface, the processor configured to program the filtering by the input interfaces.

85. (New) The interface unit of Claim 78, wherein the output interface formats the filtered data in accordance with a pulse code modulated (PCM) protocol and then forms a single output stream from the formatted data.

86. (New) The interface unit of Claim 85, wherein the output interface fills PCM frames with a fill word when a frame of data is not available from the input interface.

87. (New) The interface unit of claim 78, further comprising a plurality of terminations for coupling the input interfaces to the nodes.

88. (New) A method for collecting avionics data for an aircraft output device, the method comprising:

    passively listening for frames communicated between a plurality of nodes in a Fibre Channel local area network, the frames formatted in accordance with a Fibre Channel protocol;

    selecting avionics data wanted by the output device, including examining source and destination addresses of the frames in order to extract avionics data specific to the output device and eliminate data not wanted by the output device; and

    placing the filtered data into a single, lower speed output stream that is formatted for the output device in accordance with a protocol other than Fibre Channel.

89. (New) The method of claim 88, further comprising time tagging the filtered data.

90. (New) The method of Claim 88, further comprising using the output device to record the filtered data.

91. (New) The method of Claim 88, further comprising formatting the filtered data in accordance with a pulse code modulated (PCM) protocol.

92. (New) The method of Claim 91, further comprising filling PCM frames with a fill word when a frame of data is not available on the network.